

### SITUATION IN FRANCE

- I. Faure wily politico:
    - A. Represents all-things-to-all-men political approach which can resolve no basic issues.
    - B. Large majority on investiture no guarantee of stable coalition:
      1. Left wing MRP, Radicals and Gaullists hesitant to identify themselves with right in face of Socialist opposition and approaching elections.
  - II. Faure committed to press for approval of Paris agreements:
    - A. Faure reported well aware US suspicions following his defection over EDC, and he is most anxious gain US confidence through early ratification.
      1. Faure's office chief maintains Faure's first objective will be Senate approval without amendment.
      2. Nomination of Pinay to Foreign Ministry favorable sign for Council approval.
      3. Council action likely before mid-March.
        - a. Deadline for Council action 1 April.
- Nevertheless,
- B. Palewski in newly created Ministry for International Organizations is danger:
    1. Following Malenkov ouster bemoaned West "continuing to follow the sad road of an outmoded policy:

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first EDC, then the Paris agreements, before negotiations."

2. Gaullist executive committee on 8 February declared policy: Paris agreements should be subordinated to complete and rapid exploration of the possibilities of talks with the East.

- a. assures amendment will be proposed by Gaullists.

- C. Well-organized campaign of Communists and other opponents to influence Senators against accords:

1. Pro-accords Gaullist Senator Debre thinks constant stream of letters (about 15 per day to each senator) beginning to make serious dents.

- a. Senators recognize Communist inspiration of letters but are influenced because they come from prominent non-Communist constituents.

2. Half of senators up for re-election in June.

- a. Humanité running daily lists of their names and urging pressure on them.

- b. Campaign of posters showing poignant local scenes under German occupation and portrait of local deputies under big headlines:  
This man voted for German Rearmament.

3. Two organizations conducting pro-accords campaign.

- a. National Movement of Local Office-holders sending 100,000 pro-WEU letters to municipal and departmental councilors.

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- b. Socialist Office-holders' Association
  - 1. Backing above appeal
  - 2. Distributing similar appeal to 8-10,000 members, quoting mayor of Marseille on Communist-inspired letters.
- c. Senators of at least one department (Rhône) have circularized their departmental councilors with strong condemnation of Communist campaign.

NOTE

Constitutional requirement that cabinet and premier-designate be presented simultaneously to Assembly more than counter-balanced new provision permitting investiture by relative rather than by absolute majority.

- 1. Both changes voted on second reading on 30 November 54 with support of Mendes-France who urged Assembly clear up legislative calendar.
- 2. In no sense a real reform, but opens possibility for further change in 1946 constitution.

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Approved For Release 2005/08/10 : CIA-RDP80R01443R000300260005-7

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